

# NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

Timely News Culled From All Parts of the State, Reduced for the Busy.

## SCORES OF EVENTS COVERED

Public schools at Omaha, Lincoln, Nebraska City, Crete and numerous other places in the state have been closed because of the coal strike. Theaters have been closed at Omaha and business generally curtailed; the state university at Lincoln was ordered closed last Monday. The drastic regulations issued by the government for rationing fuel to all industries—save essentials, are expected to cause a general paralysis of business in this state and to close virtually all schools and places of amusement until after the holidays at least.

Hastings is tightly closed by the fuel order. Theaters and the library are shut down. All meetings, lodge gatherings and public entertainments are prohibited. All school and college activities have been suspended. Coal deliveries are limited to 1,000 pounds, to be made on official permit only.

In a field of eight contestants for the privilege of submitting plans for the new Nebraska \$5,000,000 state capitol, John Latenser & Sons of Omaha, Elbery Davis of Lincoln and John and Allen MacDonald of Omaha, presented plans that were selected by the capitol commission in Lincoln.

A municipal wood yard was started last week by 50 business men at Superior. They contributed \$25 each as a working fund. It is reported 3,000 loads of wood can be got by the woodchoppers along the Republican river to help out the coal shortage.

In the book of estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, Secretary of the Treasury Glass asks for an appropriation of \$102,500 for the Geneva Indian school, and \$1,000,000 for the North Platte reclamation project in Nebraska.

L. C. Christie, county agent for Dodge county for the last two years has resigned and will go to Seward county to take up similar work. Mr. Christie has leased a farm of 52 acres near Seward, which he will operate along lines he advocates in his work.

The republican state central committee will take no part in the contests between individuals in the republican primaries, according to a statement issued by Robert Devoe, chairman of the republican state central committee at Lincoln.

Land values in Saunders county are increasing. Six years ago E. H. Keiser bought 40 acres of unimproved land north of Ashland for \$6,000. Three years ago he erected a modern home, and has just sold the property for \$25,000.

Formation of co-operative associations throughout the state soon will be started. Governor McKelvie is having printed some pamphlets containing the laws regarding the forming of associations of this kind which will be distributed to the public.

Two hundred "back privates," who served under General Pershing overseas, will meet him at the Nebraska state line and escort him to Lincoln when he arrives in December to spend Christmas in the Capital City.

Business men of Beatrice have shortened business hours from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. All display signs and residence street lights have been turned off. Many people are reported burning wood with their coal.

With three of last year's team back in school and some excellent material to choose from, Midland College at Fremont, will have a fast basket ball team to represent it in the conference games this year.

A Marsland colored boy was arrested for robbing the bank at that place and locking the cashier in the vault. The money stolen from the institution was found in the boy's possession.

Governor McKelvie directed Adjutant General Paul to take charge of the enrollment of Nebraska volunteers for work in the coal mines, pursuant to his proclamation for such service.

It is estimated that approximately 4,000 packing house workmen at South Omaha will be benefited by the increased wage scale announced by Judge Aleschuler of Chicago.

Timber along Muddy Creek is being used as fuel by the people in Stella and vicinity. The coal supply was exhausted last week.

Actual suffering from lack of fuel was reported to the Nebraska Railway commission in a telegram from Kilgore, which said the village had been without coal for ten days.

The statement that farm women are driven to hospitals for insane by country life gains no support from facts announced by J. O. Rankin, of the Nebraska College of Agriculture at Lincoln. From every 100,000 of their population, the rural communities send 41.3 persons to asylums, while the cities send 86, or more than twice as many.

Loss of stock, snowbound mails, and suffering among the poor resulted in Arthur county from the blizzard last week.

A handsome Partridge Wyandotte cock, owned by Fred Karre, of Cotesfield, was awarded the sweepstake prize at the Omaha Poultry show. The bird is valued at \$3,500.

The contract for 41 blocks of brick pavement in David City has been let to an Omaha firm, at a total cost of \$189,000. When this is completed, David City will have 55 blocks of good pavement.

George E. Johnson, secretary of the Nebraska department of public works, told delegates to the state convention of county clerks, registers of deeds, commissioners, supervisors and highway commissioners at Omaha that every county in the state will have state aid roads next year. He said his department has 220 trucks and 50 tractors for the work.

The suddenness of the blizzard which swept over northwestern Nebraska early last week caught many ranches of Hooker and surrounding counties without sufficient brushwood and cobs to last through the bad weather. One rancher is reported to have torn down a half mile of fence in order to get the posts for fuel.

Bartos Brothers, Willbur, attorneys, charged with illegal practices in their profession during the war, have filed an answer in the supreme court in Lincoln denying all charges. The complaint was filed by the county attorney of Saline county with the idea of having them debarred.

A Hooker county rancher offered \$20 a ton for coal the other day at Mullen, but was obliged to go home with an empty wagon. Two cattle cars, remains of a wreck at Mullen three weeks ago, are bare skeletons, every bit of removable lumber having been torn off.

At a special meeting of the county board in Kearney, Chairman George Conroy was authorized to sign a lease with the Union Pacific railroad for 50 feet of their right-of-way through Buffalo county for use as a federal and state aid highway.

Since farm bureaus of the state have been so successful in combating hog cholera, grasshoppers and other destructive pests, attention is now turned to ridding Nebraska of the gopher pest, which is threatening alfalfa production.

Several deals relating to a tract of land in Platte county, chronicled recently in a Columbus paper, shows that the land was bought thirty-nine years ago for \$3,150, and was sold the other day for the sum of \$180,000.

Gravel is to be used as surfacing on the latest federal and state aid road project designated for Buffalo county. This is the Lincoln Highway, work on which will be started in the spring and completed before fall.

The War department at Washington refused Governor McKelvie's request to cut national guard companies from 100 to 65 men, basing its contention that the latter would be too small for a peace time state military unit.

Nebraska is the largest potato producing state in the union, according to the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. The state produced 28,854 tons of the 54-562 tons of potato in the United States in 1918.

The state department of finance has bought seventy twelve-foot graders for road construction in the department of public works, paying \$48,700 on a contract calling for deliveries by March 1.

Father F. B. Tomaneck dedicated the new Sacred Heart hospital at Lynch, which was immediately opened under the supervision of the Sisters of St. Benedict from St. Vincent hospital, Sioux City.

The annual convention of the Nebraska State Laundrymen's association, scheduled to be held in Fremont last week, was indefinitely postponed because of the fuel shortage.

Geo. A. Williams, head of the state bureau of markets, plans to tour the state to encourage formation of co-operative enterprises, as a means of reducing living costs.

That Sarpy county land prices have not yet reached the top was evidenced when the Olderog 100-acre farm near Gretna was sold at referee's sale for \$50,000 cash.

William Krieger Post No. 126, American Legion, has been organized by over 100 ex-service men in Butler county with headquarters at David City.

The will of the late Frederick Krug, pioneer Omaha brewer, filed in county court at Omaha, shows he left an estate valued at \$300,000.

The annual convention of the Nebraska Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union will be held in Omaha January 13 to 15.

Farmers in the vicinity of Imperial and Belfast are reported to be burning ear corn, due to the inability to secure coal or wood.

The Lincoln Commercial club sent a request to the government urging the use of the army and volunteer labor to work coal mines.

Members of the midwest retail implement dealers' association will meet at Omaha January 6 to 8.

The first airplane taxi line in the world is the claim of Lincoln, where the Ensign company, pioneers in taxicab service in that city, have purchased a plane, hired a driver and selected a landing field for the new branch of their business.

Shortage of coal has led to the possibility of the state board of control beginning a wood harvest on some of the trees near the Soldiers' Home at Millford. A natural growth of timber along the Blue river will insure the institution sufficient fuel to keep the veterans warm.

Farmers' unions all over Nebraska and Iowa are preparing to combat the reduction of hog prices, say members of various organizations in this state.

Weather records in a number of Nebraska cities show that the last few days of the past month were the coldest for November in more than ten years.

Lester Kittering, who returned in June from France, was killed at Grand Island by the explosion of a bomb which he picked up on the battlefields of France and brought back with him as a trophy.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NOTES

Lincoln.—Permanent organization of the Nebraska state constitutional convention was effected Dec. 2 by election of Arthur J. Weaver of Falls City as president; George Jackson of Nelson as vice president; Clyde Barnard of Table Rock as secretary, and Crawford Kennedy of Lincoln as sergeant-at-arms.

There will be no one-man rule in the convention, according to actions of the delegates during the first two days.

Hotel lobby gossip indicates that a number of changes in the present constitution will be made with very little if any opposition. Among these are increased salaries for state officials, for supreme court judges, and probably for district court judges; a provision whereby stockholders in co-operative enterprises may be limited to one vote, regardless of the amount of stock held; elimination of the section providing for a state census every ten years and elimination of the section making drunkenness cause of impeachment and removal from office.

At least one resolution has made its appearance, brought in by a delegate who proposes to ask the convention to insert in the new constitution a proviso that will permit the parochial school system to be entirely divorced from state supervision or control, and which will, in effect, make it a law unto itself.

The rules committee through its chairman, Mr. Meserve, reported the rules prepared by the committee. They provide some stringent methods to hold members from getting off of the reservation. The members may be reprimanded, censured, or by a two-thirds vote expelled for disorderly behavior, and the president is given authority to have the gallery cleared in case of disturbances there. Only the delegates, officers and employees of the convention, federal and supreme judges, state executive officers and duly assigned members of the press are allowed upon the floor unless upon invitation of some member of the convention.

Victor Rosewater of Omaha, as chairman of the constitutional convention survey committee, presented the report of that body to the convention and furnished copies of the document bound with a blank page alternating for reference work. The committee had gathered information regarding recent constitutional conventions in other states and submitted a mass of statistics and information for the use of the delegates.

Farmer members of the convention are expressing open dissatisfaction with the personnel of the committee on rules which were selected by the delegates from the various congressional districts.

They say the naming of fifteen lawyers and only five farmers on the two committees was not a fair deal to the agricultural interests of the state.

The convention decided to ignore the mandate issued in the fall of 1918, when the voters approved the call for a constitutional convention. According to the convention call approved by the people, 25 per cent of the convention was given the power to demand the separate submission of any constitutional amendment.

If the convention adopts the rules committee report, each proposal must pass twice through the convention committee of the whole, and must be formally approved two separate times by at least fifty-one of the 100 delegates before they can be submitted to the people.

Amendments to the present constitution and all proposals introduced by delegates will be passed upon four different times before their final adoption, according to a report submitted to the convention by the committee on rules.

The convention adopted a rule that provides for all standing committee hearings to be open to the public and prohibiting any final action by any committee except at a regular meeting of such committee.

Invitations to address the convention will be sent to John L. Webster of Omaha and J. D. Hamilton of Fillmore, said to be the only men living who sat in the 1875 convention that drew up the present state constitution.

There was but two absentees in the convention delegates, Higgins of Colfax county and Osborne of Scotts Bluff when Secretary of State Ansbury called the meeting to order.

Among the changes in the state constitution since its adoption by the last convention in 1875, is the creation of the State Railway Commission and the Board of Control.

The City of Omaha has petitioned the convention to make it possible to either consolidate the governments of the City of Omaha and the County of Douglas, or form a new county to conform to the city limits of Omaha.

Secretary of State Ansbury says there will be no interruption in the convention deliberations due to the coal shortage. In case the state should run out of coal, which is not likely, as it has a pretty good supply on hand, it might be necessary to take a recess while waiting for somebody to dig coal.

## HER IDLE HOUR

By HORTENSE CALDWELL.

Gladys Carter called it her idle hour, but all her friends called it her busiest. The hour was supposed to be from five to six, spent at the Soldiers' and Sailors' club, but many nights the hands of the clock were long past seven when she left the building.

Every night, except Sunday, for 13 months, she had covered her typewriter, put on her coat and hat and gone to the club. Arriving there she had busied herself making sandwiches and coffee for the men who would arrive shortly for the social hour. Because of her cordiality, she was a great favorite with the men in service, making no distinction between the home boys and the strangers.

One night as she was busy making a delicious looking salad, she chanced to observe a man in uniform just entering the door. In a glance she could see he was a stranger, probably some poor lonely fellow who had never been in that city before. Hurriedly she dropped the fork she had been using, and went to where he was standing.

"How do you do," she said, cordially, as she extended her hand. "You are very welcome."

The fellow smiled his gratitude. Evidently he had been afraid of the reception he would receive.

"Come over here," Gladys continued, "and I will make you acquainted with some of the other men."

Smiling pleasantly, she led the way over to where three boyish looking fellows were standing.

"This is Mr. —. Why, I don't believe you told me your name."

"My name is Jenks, Harold Jenks," the newcomer said.

"Oh, yes, Mr. Jenks. Let me present you to Mr. Grant and Mr. Lynn. Now, Paul," Gladys said, turning in the direction of Mr. Grant, "you can see that Mr. Jenks is made perfectly at home."

After Gladys had turned away to greet more boys, Harold turned to Paul. "Why not introduce me to the lady?" he asked.

"Why, I thought you knew her. She is Miss Gladys Carter, much beloved by every man in service."

"Well, I'm glad I'm a member of that society," Harold answered with a smile. Paul crossed the room and laid his hand on Miss Carter's arm. "Mr. Jenks would like to meet you if you will come over here a minute."

Gladys went to where Mr. Jenks was standing. Paul glanced at them both a little doubtfully and then introduced them. Never once after that did Harold take his eyes from the graceful Gladys as she moved deftly about the room.

His stay in that city was but nine days, but during that short time he was a frequent visitor at the club. At last came the day when he had to say good-by, and sorting out Gladys, led her to a seat.

"You have no idea how much you have done for me here," he began, "and I want to thank you for it all. I'm not going to tell you just how much you mean to me, as I am going to France. But I want you to think of me, and write to me, will you?"

Gladys readily consented, and with tear-dimmed eyes she gave him her hand. "I will think of you now, and after you've gone, Harold, and I may be still here when you come back."

Harold took the hand gravely, smiled and went out. A month after that the letters had begun to fly over the ocean thick and fast. She, at home doing her bit at the club, was thinking of him, while he, doing his bit in the trenches, saw but one smiling face he had left behind.

At last, he returned home, to find her still keeping her place of mercy. Smilingly he reassured her he was perfectly safe, and glad to be home again; but the clear-eyed Gladys noticed one side of his head was badly scarred.

"I feel as if I had known you all my life, Gladys," he said, "and your letters were so like you, I could fairly see your eyes and feel your touch."

"Your letters were wonderful, too," she replied, "and I always read them during my idle hour."

"Your idle hour," he repeated thoughtfully, "Gladys, you will never realize your vast amount of work in 'your idle hour.'"

"It was mere pleasure for me," she answered, "and I have never been so happy as I was during those hours."

"I still want you to be happy, Gladys; but don't you think you might spend those few minutes with me in our home?"

Two weeks later Mrs. Harold Jenks sent cards to her friends saying her "at home" would be from five to six on Wednesday.

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### Talkin' About It.

A farmer said to his negro servant: "Jim, have you fed the horses?" "Yassir."

"What did you feed 'em?" "Hay."

"Did you feed the cows?" "Yassir."

"What did you feed 'em?" "Hay."

"Did you feed the ducks?" "Yassir."

"What did you feed 'em?" "Hay."

"Did they eat it?" "Nawssir; dey didn't exactly eat it, so far as I sww, but they were talkin' about it when I left."—Brooklyn Citizen.

# WHO'S WHO in the WORLD

## "PUSSYFOOT" JOHNSON RIDES A PLANK

"Pussyfoot, Pussyfoot," where have you been? "I've been to London to preach against gin." "Pussyfoot, Pussyfoot, what saw you there?" "Some medical students put flour in my hair." Also "Pussyfoot" was ridden on a plank. Moreover, he got a black eye—which may result in the loss of its sight.

All of which happened to William E. Johnson, a mild-mannered American antialcohol crusader who has scared Merrie England half to death with his prohibition campaign. He has even scored great success in Glasgow, where the canny Scots believe with Robert Burns that "freedom and whisky gang together."

Johnson was a student in the University of Nebraska something like 30 years ago. He engaged in business in Lincoln for a time. In the early nineties he became connected with the government as an agent for running down men selling liquor to Indians, and while in this work he engaged in many controversies and once nearly lost his life. On account of the danger connected with the work he adopted quiet but effective methods that gave him the name of "Pussyfoot," and put him well at the head of this branch of the service.

He left the government service and became general agent and publicity man for the Antialcohol league. The success of the national prohibition movement encouraged the league to begin work on the other side, and Johnson was sent to London to open an office.

Johnson had the reputation of being a fighter, and while in the university was an athlete, and he has a way with him.



## GLASS LEAVES TREASURY FOR SENATE



Mr. Glass was a member of the Virginia state senate for six years before going to congress. He was there continuously as representative of the Sixth district of Virginia up to the time of his appointment as secretary of the treasury.

Carter Glass, secretary of the treasury, was appointed by Governor Davis to succeed the late Thomas S. Martin as United States senator from Virginia. Secretary Glass consulted President Wilson and then announced that he would accept the appointment. The term of Senator Martin would have expired in 1925.

Mr. Glass was a representative in congress from the Lynchburg district of Virginia and was chairman of the committee on banking and currency when in December, 1918, he was appointed by President Wilson to succeed William G. McAdoo as secretary of the treasury. He is owner of the Daily News of Lynchburg and the Daily Advance, an afternoon paper of the same city. He is sixty-one years of age.

## PERSISTENCE, THY NAME IS LIPTON

Sir Thomas J. Lipton, Bart., jolly old sea dog, arrived in New York the other day bound on the same old errand—to lift "the mug," as he calls the America's cup. This will be his fourth attempt—persistence, thy name is Lipton. He names Shamrock IV as challenger and wants to sail over the same old Sandy Hook course. He does, however, specify June instead of September—so the Jersey sketeers will not eat him up; also because he thinks there will be more wind.

Sir Thomas inaugurated his fourth attempt to lift the America's cup in 1913 with a challenge for a race the following year. The challenge was accepted and the challenging yacht, Shamrock IV, was en route to this country under its own sails when war was declared. The Shamrock IV put into Bermuda and later reached New York after the danger of capture by German ships had passed. With the beginning of the world war the international yacht race was abandoned and the Shamrock IV was placed in drydock in Erie basin. The American yachts Resolute and Vanitie were also withdrawn from the races the following season.

Last December Sir Thomas renewed his challenge through the Royal Ulster Yacht club for a series of races to be held the fall of 1919, but the New York Yacht club asked that it be withdrawn or held in abeyance for at least a year, in view of the uncertain outlook existing at that time. Sir Thomas acquiesced to this view.



## WHITLOCK: AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM



The irony, some might call it the humor, of his situation and services was in his having been appointed after a custom of an earlier day chiefly in recognition of the fact that he was a writer of some distinction.

To raise Brand Whitlock, who has been minister to Belgium for six years, to the rank of ambassador and return him to Belgium is a deserved compliment to a man who has served his own country and the one to which he was accredited with so much tact and ability that King Albert's government has desired his reappointment, and the president's compliance is satisfactory to Americans of both parties.

No American diplomat had a more difficult place to fill. Before we entered the war it was necessary for him to remain on formally courteous terms with the Germans who assumed control of Belgium. Even before our government declared war, he had joined with the Belgian relief committee in helping to aid the starving and suffering people driven from their homes, and to the end of the war he was actively engaged with Mr. Hoover in administering the American Relief fund.